





## BIOGRAPHIES

### Panel 1: An Historic Perspective of Arts in Corrections Programs

#### Wayne D. Cook

Program Specialist for the Artists in Schools Program and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator, California Arts Council.

Prior to the Arts Council Mr. Cook was the Artists Facilitator at both New and Old Folsom prisons in Sacramento, CA. Wayne is the author of CENTER STAGE, A CURRICULUM FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, which was adopted by the state of Texas in 1992-93 and utilized extensively throughout the United States. Mr. Cook has taught theatre at a number of universities, including Penn State, California State University, Long Beach and California State University, Sacramento. Wayne continues to perform as an actor in his one man show "An Evening with Langston", dramatizing the poetry of Langston Hughes.

#### Craig Watson

Director, California Arts Council

Craig Watson is the Director of the California Arts Council, a position he has held since August 2011. Previously he was the executive director of the Arts Council for Long Beach, where he oversaw the expansion of the agency into the community, including the largest local celebration for Arts and Humanities Month in the nation.

Watson started his career in the arts field at local arts agencies and arts-services organizations, and later built a career in the telecommunications industry before returning to the arts as Executive Director of the Arts Council for Long Beach. He held senior executive positions in the telecommunications field in Rhode Island, New York and California. His earlier career in the arts included positions with the Sonoma County Arts Council and Rural Arts Services in Northern California, as well as a fellowship at the National Endowment for the Arts, participation in the Coro Foundation's Arts Management program, and a co-directing position at Santa Barbara Arts Services.

The California Arts Council is the official state arts agency for California, the state with the largest number of artists and creative-industry workers in the U.S.

### **Laurie Brooks**

Executive Director, William James Association

A ceramics artist who has headed the William James Association since 2001, Laurie has facilitated Arts-in-Corrections programs for incarcerated men, women and youth since 1989. Collaborating with the CAC and others during the 1990's, she facilitated the development of programs for the California Youth Authority and Arts in Mental Health.

Over the past 15 years, she has worked successfully with the NEA's Office of Accessibility to establish artist-in-residence programs with the Federal Bureau of Prisons facilities. She has a degree in Economics and Community Studies from UC-Santa Cruz and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County.

### **Alma Robinson**

Executive Director, California Lawyers for the Arts (CLA)

Ms. Robinson has worked for the California Lawyers for the Arts since 1981, and is responsible for the organization's program development, long-range planning and budgeting while serving as liaison with community groups, government agencies, the media and funders. Recently, she led dialogues in San Francisco and Los Angeles between arts and environmental leaders as part of CLA's innovative Arts and Environmental Initiative. In 2011, in collaboration with the William James Association, she initiated efforts to restore the state's stellar Arts-in-Corrections programs. An attorney, she was the founding director of CLA's Arts Arbitration and Mediation Services and initiated Arts Resolution Services, a national network of art/law organizations providing mediation services modeled on CLA's program, as well as CLA's Arts and Community Development Program, which provides job training in the arts for disadvantaged youth and became the model for similar programs in Texas and Washington, D.C. She was a founding board member of California Arts Advocates and the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco. Previously, Alma was a university lecturer at Stanford and San Francisco State and was a journalist at the Washington Star. She is a graduate of Middlebury College and Stanford Law School.

## **Jim Carlson**

Recreation Therapist in the Mental Services Program, CSP-Sacramento

Jim Carlson is a visual artist. He works in pencil, colored pencil, oils, acrylics and printmaking. He received a B.A. in Art from Bethel College, Minnesota, a M.A. from King Sejong University, Seoul, Korea and worked extensively with Joseph Mugnaini of Otis Art Institute. His work is primarily figurative but he has recently begun to explore doodling as a means to access the visual creative process and move students into personal visual expression. Jim has worked with California's Arts in Corrections since 1984. As Artist/Facilitator, he created and ran the art programs at both San Quentin (1984-1988) and California State Prison-Sacramento (1994-present). He was also statewide manager of Arts in Corrections for five years. San Quentin's art program included visual arts on death row; cell-to-cell teaching in lockup; poetry, animation, visual art, music, and circus arts on mainline; and a major production of "Waiting for Godot" for public audience. The program at CSP-Sacramento has excellent multidisciplinary arts programs, an extensive reading program and has had inmate composed music programs featured on public radio. When Arts in Corrections funding for outside instructors was cut, Jim designed an extensive program of prisoner-led art classes that currently serves a large portion of CSP-Sacramento's inmate population. He is currently working with inmates in the mental health services unit.

## **Panel 2: On Location with Arts in Corrections Programs**

### **Tim Robbins**

Artistic Director, The Actors' Gang

Academy Award-winning Tim Robbins ranks among contemporary cinema's most acclaimed and provocative voices; a multifaceted talent, who has acted written, directed and produced films including Dead Man Walking, Shawshank Redemption, Mystic River, The Player, Bob Roberts, Bull Durham, Jacobs Ladder, Hudsucker Proxy, The Secret Life of Words and Cradle Will Rock. In addition Robbins has been a consistent and influential voice in the theater for the past 32 years as an actor, director, playwright and artistic director of the Actors Gang, which has travelled the world to five continents and extensively in the United States with productions including Embedded, George Orwells' 1984, The Exonerated, The Guys, and The Trial of the Catonsville Nine.

Robbins has also been instrumental in the development and expansion of education and outreach programs at the Actors Gang, arts programs that reach

hundreds of children currently without school funding for theater programs. In addition Robbins and several other Actors Gang members regularly conduct theater workshops with incarcerated men in an effort to fill the gap in arts rehabilitation programs in the California corrections system.

### **Scott Budnick**

Film Producer, Green Hat Films and The Anti-Recidivism Coalition

Budnick grew up in Atlanta, Georgia and graduated from Emory University in 1999 with degrees in Business and Film. He began his film career working in casting and as an Assistant to director Todd Phillips on the DreamWorks comedy, ROAD TRIP.

Scott then went to work for former TriStar Pictures chairman, Mike Medavoy at Phoenix Pictures, where he worked first-hand in the development of over forty films. A year later, Scott returned to work with Phillips on the work of his second film, OLD SCHOOL as Associate to the Director. Upon completion of photography on OLD SCHOOL, Bob and Harvey Weinstein signed Todd to a three-year deal with Miramax Films and Phillips tapped Scott to run his new production company. Scott then took on the role of Associate Producer on STARKY AND HUTCH, starring Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson, and subsequently served as Co-Producer of SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS.

As Executive Vice President at Phillips' production company, Budnick develops and produces projects under the Green Hat Films banner, now based at Warner Bros Studios. In 2007, Budnick began the deal at Warner Bros by Executive Producing the THE HANGOVER, which grossed an estimated 460 million dollars, making it then the highest-grossing R-rated comedy in film history. Next came DUE DATE, another hit starring Robert Downey Jr. and Zach Galifianakis and THE HANGOVER PART II, which out-grossed THE HANGOVER with 581 Million worldwide. In 2012, Budnick Executive Produced PROJECT X, delivering another low budget hit for Warner Bros and is currently in post-production on THE HANGOVER PART III, which will be released by Warner Bros for Memorial Day weekend 2013.

Outside of the workplace, Budnick is a fierce champion for children in need. For his work with youth in the criminal justice system, Governor Jerry Brown named Budnick California's Volunteer of the Year for 2012. Budnick also received the Volunteer of the Year award from LA County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and was interviewed by Chelsea Clinton for NBC Nightly News, 'Making a Difference' series. Budnick is a teacher and on the Advisory Board for InsideOUT Writers ([www.insideoutwriters.org](http://www.insideoutwriters.org)), is a board member of the Los

Angeles Conservation Corps ([www.lacorps.org](http://www.lacorps.org)) and on the Advisory board for the Loyola Law School, Center for Juvenile Law and Policy.

Budnick works closely with the Los Angeles Probation Department, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, in giving incarcerated youth a path to education, success and rehabilitation before their release. He can often be found walking the tiers of California jails and prisons on his nights and weekends, giving hope and words of advice to the many incarcerated youth who have been through his classes. Budnick currently is launching The Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC), an organization of very high-achieving formerly incarcerated young adults who work to support one another, while stopping the flow of men and woman into the criminal justice system.

### Wayne Kramer

Guitarist, Composer and Activist

Wayne Kramer is a songwriter whose reputation writing music for film and television risks supplanting his legend as one of the world's stellar guitarists. Wayne was a teenage greaser and leader of the MC5, widely recognized as the prototype for punk rock and heavy metal. Ironically, he was also the first to incorporate a nod to free jazz in hard rock. In 1969, the MC5 released the incendiary album *Kick Out The Jams* on Elektra Records. After being dropped from Elektra due to "radical antics", they released two albums on Atlantic Records: *Back In The USA*, produced by soon-to-be Bruce Springsteen's manager Jon Landau; and the critically hailed *High Time*. Between world tours, Wayne scored *Gold* and The Living Theatre's film production of *Paradise Now*.

Wayne spent 1976-1978 in Lexington Federal Penitentiary, where he was tutored by fellow inmate Charlie Parker's trumpeter Red Rodney. It was Red who taught Wayne how to read music and the two formed a prison band. After release, Wayne co-wrote the acclaimed R&B musical *The Last Words of Dutch Schultz* with Mick Farren, then joined Don Was' revolutionary acid funk band Was (Not Was) as the original guitarist. Wayne helped define the band's sound through — of all things — a dance hit "Wheel Me Out". In the 1980s in New York City, Wayne teamed up with the infamous Johnny Thunders for a short-lived, headline grabbing, punk rock group Gang War.

In 1994, Wayne moved to Los Angeles and signed with Epitaph Records. He recorded four records in as many years. He also produced and co-wrote the album *Full Circle* with former manager John Sinclair and produced a



retrospective collection for Rhino Records entitled *The Big Bang*, and a punk compilation *Beyond Cyberpunk*.

In 2012, Wayne scored all three seasons of HBO's *East Bound & Down* and the feature thriller *Concrete Blondes* as well as the acclaimed "zeitgeist" doc *Let Fury Have The Hour*. In 2013, he will write and produce original compositions for ShadowMachine's stop-motion animation feature *Hell & Back* and he will compose the score for *Nelson Algren*, a documentary about the legendary Chicago writer. Wayne scored the comedy *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby* for Sony Pictures, where his song "Edge of the Switchblade" also runs at the film's end title credits. Wayne composed the score for HBO's controversial feature length documentary *Hacking Democracy*, which also utilized his "Something Broken in the Promised Land" as its title track. He wrote additional underscore for the feature film *Daydreamer* (Aron Paul).

While completing score and narration for the PBS documentary *The Narcotic Farm* about America's decades-long failed drug war — as well as its free jazz soundtrack album entitled *Lexington* — Wayne was featured on the release of Activision's video game *Guitar Hero: World Tour*. Recent playing is featured on Marianne Faithfull's new album and he scored *Shania Twain* for the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN).

On television, Wayne's title theme for the Fox Sports program *5-4-3-2-1* was a bona fide hit and he now has many themes running on Fox including, *Spotlight*, *In My Own Words* and *Under the Lights*. Wayne composed the theme for E!'s hit series *Split Ends* as well as the "Unlabeled" commercial for Jim Beam. His songs have been featured in a wide array of TV shows and feature films *Jackass*, *Judging Amy*, *Millennium*, *Almost Famous*, *Rock 'n' Roll High School*, *I Shot Andy Warhol* and *Pump Up the Volume*. His cues are heard in NFL, NBA and MLB Playoff events and Food Network productions. He has written over 1000 cues for network production music catalogs, including Fox, TelePictures, PostHaste and Bravo's series *Kell on Earth*, among others.

Wayne is recognized nearly as often as a vigorous social activist. Along with wife Margaret Saadi Kramer and legendary British singer Billy Bragg, Wayne founded Jail Guitar Doors USA, a Los Angeles based 501(c)3 non-profit group that provides guitars for use in prisoner rehabilitation. Known as "the loudest charity on planet earth," JGD-USA launched at Sing Sing Prison in Spring 2009 and has since intervened at over 25 adult and juvenile — both minimum security and maximum-security — facilities in the USA. Shepard Fairey donated the charity's logo and board member Adam McKay's company Funny

or Die donated the design and programming of its interactive site. JGD-USA is currently building its Board of Directors.

### **Jack Bowers**

Performing Musician and Songwriter/Composer; Chair, William James Association; and former Institutional Artist Facilitator, Soledad Prison

For twenty-five years Jack directed the Arts in Corrections program at Soledad State Prison, which involved hundreds of inmates in weekly fine arts activities, ranging from creative writing classes to music theory to luthiery. Currently, in addition to performing and recording in many venues in the Santa Cruz area, he is an active advocate for arts programming for prisoners and at risk youth through the William James Association, and serves on the board of the New Music Works.

### **Tom Skelly**

Artist and Artist Facilitator, UCLA

Tom Skelly was born in St. Louis Missouri in 1952. He received a B.A. from the University of California at Santa Barbara and an M.F.A. from Claremont Graduate University in painting in 1979. Upon graduating he began exhibiting and teaching painting, drawing and design.

In 1980 Skelly accepted a full time civil service position as an Artist/Facilitator for the statewide Arts-In-Corrections program for the California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation. He designed and implemented a multi-disciplinary fine arts program at the California Institution for Men in Chino. During his thirty-year tenure, he developed an award-winning, inmate arts crew that created community beautification projects throughout southern California. The projects included murals, mosaics, sculptures, and media. Through the Arts In Corrections program, he partnered and worked with non-profit groups, schools, libraries, senior centers, police departments, and municipalities to improve the quality of their work environments and neighborhoods.

While at the institution he taught classes and workshops for inmates, supervised contract artists, wrote grants, managed budgets, curated exhibitions and special events for music, theater, and dance performances. He created two, half-hour radio documentaries for NPR's Soundprint for "The Artistic Culture of the Incarcerated" and "Prison Portraits" which received an award from the New York Festival's International Radio Competition in the field of Social



Issues/Current Events category. In 2010 the Arts-In-Corrections program did not survive budget cuts for programming and was eliminated.

Skelly currently teaches a course called Art Programs at Correctional Institutions – History, Theory and Practice part time at UCLA. He also teaches a painting course for inmates at the California Rehabilitation Center through Cal Poly Pomona's Prison Education Project, and has lectured for the Arts Management department at Claremont Graduate University. These positions allow him to continue his commitment for prison reform through advocacy for the arts.

**Panel 3: Undereducate/Overincarcerate: The Impact of the Arts in Underserved Areas (Testimony/Research)**

**Larry Brewster**

Professor, School of Management, University of San Francisco

Dr. Brewster consults in areas of public policy and organizational development, and is author of several articles and books. Before joining USF, he was academic dean at Menlo College, and has served as dean at Golden Gate University and professor of Political Science in the California State University system. Dr. Brewster regularly consults in public policy and organizational development. He first evaluated the California Arts in Corrections in 1983, when he conducted a cost-benefit analysis. In 2010, Professor Brewster completed interviews with ex-cons who had participated in the program during their incarceration to learn of their experience in the program, how it affected them while inside, and how it has impacted their lives as free men and women. In the newly released Paths of Discovery, Art Practice and Its Impact in California Prison, the voices of the inmate-artists are heard through these interviews, just as their art and creativity are revealed in the beautiful photographs by co-author Peter Merts.

**Danielle Brazell**

Executive Director, Arts for LA

Danielle Brazell transitioned Arts for LA from an ad-hoc steering committee comprised of local executive arts leadership to a highly visible arts advocacy organization serving the greater Los Angeles region. Under her stewardship, Arts for LA has become a formidable coalition advancing the arts in the largest county in the county. In addition to surveying candidates seeking election in Los Angeles County, Arts for LA built a custom online communications infrastructure that allows for greater exchange of information and resources among the arts

and arts education community. With strong input from the field, Arts for LA crafts a biannual Policy Framework to guide the region's collective advocacy efforts. Ms. Brazell's twenty years of experience include work as the director of special projects for the Screen Actors Guild Foundation and as the artistic director of Highways Performance Space. She has been honored with numerous grants and awards, including the 2000 Getty Fellowship, a 2009 CLEAR Communications Fellowship sponsored by the James Irvine Foundation, and a 2010 SHero Award from California State Senator Curran D. Price. A graduate of Leadership LA and Leadership California, Ms. Brazell was recently awarded the James Irvine Foundation Fund for Leadership Advancement Grant to help her and Arts for LA transition its operations into its next phase of development. She serves as vice chair of Californians for the Arts, on the Arts for All Executive Committee, and represents Arts for LA on the Policy Committee of the California Alliance for Arts Education.

#### **Sharyn L. Church**

Deputy Director, Inner-City Arts

Sharyn Church began her career in non-profit management as an accountant with a national accounting firm in Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles, specializing in the firm's non-profit practice. Before joining Inner-City Arts in 2001, Sharyn worked at a variety of museums and cultural institutions, including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Craft and Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles. At Inner-City Arts, Sharyn has served in several key roles including Founding Director of the Inner-City Arts- Annenberg Professional Development Program and Director of Development; she was named Deputy Director of Inner-City Arts in January 2007, where she provides leadership to internal and external strategic initiatives. Sharyn serves as a key liaison with Inner-City Arts Board, government and community relations, and larger constituency, and most recently oversaw Inner-City Arts' \$10 million capital campaign completed in 2008. A member of ArtTable, Los Angeles, Sharyn holds a BS in Accounting and an MA in Art History and Museum Studies, both from the University of Southern California, and attended Stanford University's Graduate School of Business Executive Education Program, and the Getty's Museum Leadership Institute.

#### **Fabian Debora**

Artist, Counselor and Student Mentor, Homeboy Industries

Born in El Paso, Tx. and raised in Boyle Heights, Ca., Fabian Debora has been creating art since his childhood. Beginning his art career in 1995 as a member

of the East Los Angeles Streetscapers, Fabian was mentored by many Chicano artists and muralists and was introduced a creative expression in all forms, from graffiti to murals to sketching and fine art painting. Over the years Fabian has created murals throughout East Los Angeles and continued to develop his style through work on canvass. He has been showcased in solo and group exhibitions throughout the United States, including Santa Barbara, Ca., Los Angeles, Ca., and Kansas City, Mo.

Fabian is currently a counselor and mentor at Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles and works in collaboration with OTIS College of Design as a liaison between community artists in Boyle Heights and students in the classroom.

Fabian continues to use art as a vehicle to communicate and educate and touch people throughout his journey. By conceptualizing and interpreting his personal experiences as well as the experiences of his community, Fabian believes that he too can effect change. He is determined to continue to expand his horizons and to fully and honestly express himself through his art.

### **Carol Hinds**

Secretary, Inmate Family Council

My name is Carol Hinds. I was born and raised in Los Angeles. I have been married 37 years and have one son who is 30 years old. I attended Santa Monica Community College as well as San Diego State with emphasis on physiology. My career has been in the medical field with initial emphasis in Dermatology. I currently am a medical office manager for a physician in Los Angeles specializing in Geriatrics for whom I have worked for the past 28 years. During my son's youth, I was involved with his school, sports and Scouting activities, graduating him and one other to the rank of Eagle. With my son's sudden incarceration at age 18, parenting took on a new meaning. I realized how paralyzed I had suddenly become in terms of being involved in his life until discovering the Inmate Family Council at CSP~SAC. I joined the Council 10 years ago serving as Secretary which I continue to do today. As a voice for families of loved ones at the prison, the Council has enacted many positive changes with a respectful and collaborative approach. With incarceration, education about the new life suddenly imposed on one is key. Understanding what is and is not possible at the very beginning of the process helps one choose a path. For me, my choice was clear. Serving on the IFC has been therapeutic in ways initially, I did not anticipate. It has been my path of opportunity to be involved in the prison process in a positive way, giving me a voice, an ability to make decisions, and a good direction. It is my parenting



process, and an experience I could not be without. I look forward to finding more ways that will contribute to a better day for everyone serving time.

*With special thanks to:*

**Ron Goodman**

Artist

Ronnie Goodman is an artist living in San Francisco and painting in a Haight Street gallery. Goodman created a large body of artwork while doing time in at San Quentin and Folsom State prisons, where he participated in the Arts in Corrections program, studying with Katya McCulloch, Patrick Maloney and Bill Peterson. His work depicts and is inspired by his immediate surroundings inside the prison system. Katherine Blood, curator of prints at the Library of Congress, comments that "Goodman's prints are consistently compelling—artistically, technically and in visual/narrative content."

According to Goodman, "My work is an emotional experience reflecting on my personal growth in prison life as an artist. It is a reflection of my solitude and the deep souls of human beings." Goodman completed his prison sentence in Fall 2010.

**John Sklut**

Artist

"Bird on White Picket Fence"

**Peter Merts**

Photographer who has photographed inmate-artists and their art at San Quentin State Prison for the past ten years. His photographs humanize the inmates who desperately want to learn new ways of expressing their emotions and imaginations as artists. Peter's photographs of inmate art show the remarkable talent that is behind bars and in many cases tell the story of discovery and redemption. Peter is a fine art and documentary photographer who has exhibited, published, and lectured in the United States and abroad.

All art used by permission. The Committee would like to thank the artists who supported this hearing by sharing their work with us.